

A Day's Tour West of LOUISVILLE

and a water-fowl pond. Picnic tables and charcoal grills are available for visitors. The Forest is open daily from 7:00 a.m. to dark, March 15 to November 15.

Munfordville, a town located on the Green River and the site of an important Civil War battle. Occupied and fortified by Union troops in 1862, the position was seized after a siege and brisk battle by Confederates late that year. More than 4,000 Union soldiers were captured. Earthen forts and breastworks still can be seen along the river in town.

Take U.S. 31-W from Munfordville to Cave City and there turn right on Kentucky Route 70 to the entrance of **Mammoth Cave National Park**.

Discovered accidentally in 1799 when a hunter pursued a wounded bear into an opening in the ground, Mammoth Cave was Kentucky's first tourist attraction. No sooner had its miles of passageways been partially explored than visitors began to flock to the site. By 1816, it was attracting enough attention that guided tours were conducted through some of the passages.

The cave was known around the world prior to the Civil War. In 1905, the movement to make it a national park was started, but it was 1941 before the effort was rewarded.



Six different tours, ranging from 1½ to 7 hours in length, are conducted through portions of the 150 miles of explored and mapped passageways. Tours leave the Visitor's Center at regular intervals daily throughout the year. The year-

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round temperature inside the cave is 54°, so a wrap is suggested.)

The tours wind past impressive and colorful formations, deep pits and underground rivers and lakes populated by eyeless fish. The stalactite and stalagmite formations have been called the most spectacular in the world.

Tourists are directed first to the park visitors' center, which contains a museum and display aimed at giving a better understanding of the cave's geologic and historic importance. The enclosing rock of the caves is Mississippian in age (240,000,000 years), but the caves themselves are post-Cenozoic, or about 70 million years old in their oldest parts. In the younger parts at stream level, the caves are still being formed. The historic section tells of the discovery of the cave and its early exploration. A 15-minute showing of color slides taken inside the cave is offered hourly on the half hour from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A splendid restaurant is located inside the park. Meals are served underground on two of the longer cave trips.

Located inside the park boundary is Sand Cave, the cavern in which explorer Floyd Collins was trapped and died in 1925. It is not open to the public.

The park area is adjacent to the Green River and the Nolin Reservoir. The region is one of forested rolling hills and deep valleys. The profusion of local flora is illustrated by the fact that there are more than 180 varieties of plant life to be found. The reservation is a game preserve and the visitor usually can spot deer, turkey and other animals.

The return to Louisville can be I-65 from Park City or, as an alternate, after proceeding north on I-65, U.S. 31-W may be taken through Elizabethtown and on to Fort Knox.